Indian workers in Middle-East countries

165. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian workers who were employed in the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia have returned to India;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) On completion of their employment Contracts, Indian workers return to India unless they are rehired. No precise information is available with regard to the total number of Indian workers who have returned to India from Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia.

Profits of S. T. C.

166. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of profits earned by the State Trading Corporation during the year 1985-86; and

(b) what is the estimated profits likely to be earned by the Corporation during the financial year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The profits after tax for 1985-86 is estimated at Rs. 32.20 crores.

(b) The estimates of profits for 1986-87 have not been finalised.

Non-payment of deposited amount to the legal heirs of the deceased bank account holders

167. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints to the effect that banks do not pay the deposited amount to the legal heirs of the deceased persons who had their account in the banks even on production of death certificates; and

(b) if so, how many such complaints have been received during the last year and what action has been taken against the bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Available information shows that Government received 120 representations in 1985 seeking Govt.'s help for making the public sector banks settle the accounts of deceased persons expeditiously. Bulk of these which did not involve any dispute or legal hurdles, were settled by the banks expeditiously.

Payment of the amount standing to the credit of the deceased depositor to the legal heirs ordinarily involves production of Letter of Administration or Probate or Succession Centificate. To avoid the longdrawn procedure involved in obtaining these certificates, in respect of small depositors, banks have evolved dues to pay the balance standing to the credit of the deceased depositors to the heirs/survivors after obtaining certain documents such as claims application, death certificate, indemnity bond/sureties, consent letters from other legal heirs, affidavit indicating particulars of legal heirs, etc. Completion of these unavoidable formalities also involves some time.